

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Grant Park Community Unit School District No. 6 Board of Education, Kankakee County, State of Illinois, was held on September 21, 2026 in the Middle School Library.

The meeting was called to order by President Markland at 6:00 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Members present: Vicki Gawlinski
Christine Horn
Jerry Loitz
Tim Markland
Dave Marshalek
Sarah Toma
Mike Wells

Member absent: None

Also present: Dr. Sean McNichols, Superintendent
Ms. Tracy Planeta, ES Principal
Mrs. Stacy Glenn, MS/HS Principal
Mr. Jeff Cooks, Special Services Director
Mrs. Sue Anderson, Recording Secretary

Audience of 7

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by C. Horn, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of the regular board meeting of August 17, 2026.
2. Financial Reports for August, 2026.
3. Direction to pay the September vendor bills in the amount of \$3,413,045.27.
4. Approval of the August payroll in the amount of \$331,460.55.
5. Approval of the KASEC FY27 Budget.
6. Approval of property disposal as presented: Outdated Textbook Inventory.
7. Intergovernmental Agreement (IAG): Transportation Agreement with Momence
8. Early Graduation process/procedure, as presented, first read.
9. Roof damage insurance claim.
10. Approval to hire: Michelle Crite, Kindergarten Teacher; Jenni Hoekstra, Co-Sponsor Yearbook; Rhiannon Currier and Stephanie Tavoletti, Co-Sponsors Jr. Class; Lexi Hamann, 7th Grade Volleyball; and Michael Prepura, MS Mentor.

11. Accept the resignation of Kacy Malecha, ES Communications Aide.

Roll Call: J. Loitz – yes; C. Horn - yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; D. Marshalek – yes; S. Toma – yes; M. Wells – yes; and T. Markland - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE TO PERSONS SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE: None noted

PRESENTATION OF THE FY 2026 AUDIT:

Mr. Russ Leigh, of Russell Leigh and Associates, presented the report on the audit of Fiscal Year 2026, explaining the fund balances and financial condition of the district at the year's end. He said it was a clean audit with no issues. The only finding was expenditures reported in Life Safety that were not included in the budget. The three operating funds, Education, Operations and Maintenance, and Transportation, are all in solid financial shape with all of the funds having over a year of cash on hand which is way above what the state says we should have. Mr. Leigh warned that revenue will most likely decline overall especially in the transportation fund this year. As every district in Illinois, the pension liability was extremely underfunded, GP by \$638,000, and the state may turn to the local taxing bodies in the future to cover this shortfall. The audit will be placed on file in the District Office. Motion was made by V. Gawlinski, seconded by S. Toma, to approve the FY 2026 audit as presented. Roll Call: V. Gawlinski – yes; S. Toma - yes; C. Horn - yes; J. Loitz - yes; D. Marshalek - yes; M. Wells - yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS: Administrators' reports are attached. Mr. Cooks added they are hiring one replacement nurse through KASEC for the Communications Room.

Superintendent: Dr. McNichols' report included:

1. It has been a great start to the year with much positive energy and kindness from the adults and students.
2. The Strategic Plan process will prove to be costly, from \$5,000 up to \$30,000 and will take between six months to one year to complete. A few partner organizations have been contacted to help with the process.
3. Special Education Monitoring System Communications-Mr. Cooks is on top of this and will be monitoring/correcting past oversights.
 - a. LEA Determination: FY 2025 "Meets Requirement"
 - b. LEA Finding: Non-Compliance
4. Jerry Loitz will be recognized at the next Three Rivers Division meeting as an "Established" Board of Education member for his years of service.
5. The Hamann Center work is complete with systems testing to take place this week. The hope is to have occupancy by Friday.

APPROVAL OF SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL SCOREBOARDS:

Motion was made by D. Marshalek, seconded by J. Loitz, to approve the purchase of scoreboards for the softball and baseball fields at a cost not to exceed \$70,000. Roll Call: D. Marshalek – yes; J. Loitz – yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; C. Horn – yes; S. Toma – yes; M. Wells – yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

OPENING OF THE FY 2027 BUDGET HEARING:

Motion was made by M. Wells, seconded by S. Toma, at 6:31 p.m. to open the FY 2027 budget hearing. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSING OF THE FY 2027 BUDGET HEARING:

Dr. McNichols reviewed the FY '27 budget that has been on display for 30 days and stated that there have been no changes since the tentative budget was presented. The budget presented shows a deficit of about \$450,000 in the O&M fund due to the many projects being undertaken. Some local funds will be used for some of these projects. The Education fund is balanced. The overall budget shows revenues of \$7,996,600 and expenditures of \$9,217,834. The Transportation fund shows a deficit due to an increase in the cost of the bus leases over the last few years but is offset by a surplus in Working Cash. Dr. McNichols expressed caution with the budget moving forward due to much needed roofing projects, enrollment trends which could affect staffing and space requirements, and possible federal funding declines.

Following this discussion, a motion was made by J. Loitz, seconded by V. Gawlinski, at 6:41 p.m. to close the FY 2027 budget hearing. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF THE FY 2027 BUDGET:

Motion was made by V. Gawlinski, seconded by S. Toma, at 6:41 p.m. to accept the superintendent's recommendation to adopt the budget for the 2026-27 school year as presented. Roll Call: V. Gawlinski – yes; S. Toma – yes; C. Horn – yes; J. Loitz – yes; D. Marshalek – yes; M. Wells – yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President: No report

Building and Grounds: No report

Technology: No report

Kankakee Area Special Education Co-op: No report

Kankakee Area Career Center: No report

IASB-Three Rivers Division: No report

Chamber of Commerce: No report

Communications Committee: Upcoming meeting in October

FFA/Ag Alumni: Farm Safety Week was observed with live demonstrations, several students participated in livestock judging and many also participated in the Will County Fair.

Student Representatives: Back to School night was a success; the first Fall Homecoming was celebrated with a soccer game under the lights, a powder puff football game, district wide dress-up days, and a half-time line dance.

Board Communications: No report

Finance/Transportation Committee: No report

COMMUNITY FORUM AND OTHER: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by V. Gawlinski, seconded by J. Loitz, at 6:50 p.m. to go into Executive Session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057.

Roll Call: V. Gawlinski - yes; J. Loitz - yes; C. Horn – yes; D. Marshalek - yes; S. Toma – yes; M. Wells – yes; and T. Markland - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING:

President Markland declared the closed session was over at 7:15 p.m. and the meeting would continue in Open Session.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

Motion was made by M. Wells, seconded by J. Loitz, at 7:15 p.m. to approve the Executive Session minutes as read. Roll Call: M. Wells - yes; J. Loitz - yes; V. Gawlinski – yes; C. Horn – yes; D. Marshalek – yes; S. Toma – yes; and T. Markland – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by V. Gawlinski, seconded by J. Loitz, at 7:16 p.m. to adjourn. Voice vote, all yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Loitz
Secretary

Vicki Gawlinski
President Pro tem